

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 NEAE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /080 W

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P R 171428Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4890

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS OF ISRAELI MILITARY MANEUVERS IN
SINAI AND GOLAN

1. OCT. 17 DAMASCUS PAPERS AL-BAATH AND AL-THAWRAH FRONT-PAGED REPORTS OF ISRAELI MILITARY MANEUVERS ALLEGEDLY VIEWED BY NATO OFFICERS WHO ARRIVED SECRETLY IN ISRAEL. AL-BAATH STATED THAT MANEUVERS IN SINAI HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND ISRAELI FORCES "NOW WITHDRAWING FROM SINAI IN DIRECTION OF GOLAN." AL-BAATH ADDED THAT FORCES INCLUDING MOBILE TROOPS, ROCKET AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT FORCES, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND AIR COMMANDOS WHICH MOVED INTO NEGEV TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS WERE WITNESSED BY PRES. KATZIR AS WELL AS NATO OFFICERS.

2. AL-THAWRAH REPORTED ABOVE INFORMATION AND REFERRED TO ALLEGED STATEMENT BY COS GUR THAT ISRAEL WOULD NEVER RETURN TO PRE-1967 BORDERS AND THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE THE INITIATOR OF ANY FUTURE WAR. GUR ALSO QUOTED AS NOTING THAT
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SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY U.S. WOULD ENABLE

ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITS SECURITY. AL-THAWRAH COMMENTED
"U.S. WILL SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH WEAPONS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SINAI AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENTS AND ANNEXED SECRET CLAUSES."

3. OCT. 16 BEIRUT AL-NAHAR REPORTED THAT MILITARY
SOURCES IN TEL AVIV DENIED ISRAEL MASSING ITS FORCES
ON GOLAN FRONT, BUT QUOTED ISRAELI PAPERS AS CLAIMING
THAT SYRIA HAS MOVED CIVILIANS FROM BORDER AREA,
"WHICH, AS NEWS AGENCIES INDICATE, IS STEP NORMALLY
PRECEDING MILITARY THREAT."

4. COMMENT: NO MENTION OF SUCH ISRAELI DENIAL APPEARS IN SYRIAN
PRESS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC04039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750361-0095
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751044/aaaabmvg.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS OF ISRAELI MILITARY MANEUVERS IN SINAI AND GOLAN
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006